

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 6, 1998

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 8, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 22, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2321

Introduced by Assembly Member Knox
(Coauthor: Senator Vasconcellos)

February 19, 1998

An act to add Sections 3068 and 3070 to the Penal Code, relating to parole.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2321, as amended, Knox. Preventing Parolee Crime Program.

Existing law authorizes the Department of Corrections to establish and maintain classes for inmates that provide academic education and industrial education, and trade and vocational training. The department is also authorized to develop and operate work programs to enable inmates to acquire and improve work habits and occupational skills, to assist inmates who have been paroled or discharged in securing employment, to establish a medical facility to provide care and treatment for male inmates who are addicted to controlled substances, and to establish community

correctional centers to provide care and treatment for inmates who are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

This bill would require the Department of Corrections to operate the Preventing Parolee Crime Program, including residential and nonresidential multiservice centers, literacy labs, drug treatment networks, and job placement assistance for parolees. The bill would also authorize the parole authority to assign a conditionally released or paroled prisoner to the Preventing Parolee Crime Program in lieu of the revocation of parole. The bill would require the Department of Corrections, in consultation with the Legislative Analyst's office, to contract with an independent consultant, contingent upon funding, to conduct an evaluation regarding the impact of an expansion of the Preventing Parolee Crime Program to additional parole units on public safety, parolee recidivism, and prison and parole costs, and report the results to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2004.

The bill would require the Department of Corrections to develop and report, utilizing existing resources, to the Legislature by December 31, 2000, a plan, as specified, that would ensure by January 1, 2005, that all prisoners and parolees who are substance abusers receive appropriate treatment.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that
- 2 there is a critical need to address all of the following:
- 3 (a) The current high recidivism rate of parolees
- 4 released from the Department of Corrections.
- 5 (b) The high cost and operational difficulties for the
- 6 criminal justice system and the prison system, and the
- 7 cost to victims of crime as a result of recidivism.
- 8 (c) The already severe overcrowding in the prison
- 9 system and the projections by the Department of
- 10 Corrections that the state will run out of space for inmates
- 11 early in the year 2000, and is short by more than 70,000 the
- 12 number of beds needed over the next 10 years.



(d) The decision, taken by the Department of Corrections on its own initiative, to begin the pilot program known as Preventing Parolee Failure (PPF) to provide residential and nonresidential multiservice centers, literacy labs, drug treatment networks, and job placement assistance for parolees.

(e) The conclusion by the Department of Corrections, in the May 1, 1997, report to the Legislature, that the PPF program results in net state savings of seventy-four million dollars (\$74,000,000) and 11,000 prison beds over a five-year period.

(f) The conclusion by the Legislative Analyst's office that expansion of the PPF program would result in two dollars (\$2) to three dollars (\$3) in savings for every additional one dollar (\$1) invested by the state.

(g) The fact that some geographic areas of the state are now lacking PPF services provided successfully in other geographic areas of California.

SEC. 2. Section 3068 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

3068. (a) The Department of Corrections shall operate the Preventing Parolee Crime Program with various components, including, at a minimum, residential and nonresidential multiservice centers, literacy labs, drug treatment networks, and job placement assistance for parolees.

(b) The Department of Corrections shall, commencing in the 1998–99 fiscal year, initiate an expansion of the program to parole units now lacking some or all of the elements of the program, where doing so would be cost-effective, as determined by the Director of Corrections, to the extent that funding for the expansion is provided in the 1998–99 Budget Act and subsequent state budget acts.

(c) In addition to the assignment by the Department of Corrections of any other parolee to the Preventing Parolee Crime Program—~~or other programs providing services to parolees~~, the parole authority may assign a conditionally released or paroled prisoner to the Preventing Parolee Crime Program—~~or other programs~~

1 ~~providing services to parolees~~ in lieu of the revocation of
2 parole. The parole authority shall not assign a
3 conditionally released or paroled prisoner to the
4 Preventing Parolee Crime Program ~~or other programs~~ in
5 lieu of the revocation of parole if the person has
6 committed a parole violation involving a violent or
7 serious felony.

8 (d) (1) The Department of Corrections, in
9 consultation with the Legislative Analyst's office, shall,
10 contingent upon funding, contract with an independent
11 consultant to conduct an evaluation regarding the impact
12 of an expansion of the Preventing Parolee Crime
13 Program to additional parole units on public safety,
14 parolee recidivism, and prison and parole costs, and
15 report the results to the Legislature on or before January
16 1, 2004.

17 (2) The Department of Corrections shall sample
18 several parole units in which the program has been added
19 to examine the program's impact upon the supervision,
20 control, and sanction of parolees under the jurisdiction of
21 the sampled parole units. These results shall be compared
22 with a control group of comparable parole populations
23 that do not have Preventing Parolee Crime Program
24 services.

25 (3) The report, whether in final or draft form, and all
26 working papers and data, shall be available for immediate
27 review upon request by the Legislative Analyst.

28 (4) The department shall submit a multi-year
29 evaluation plan for the program to the Legislature six
30 months after an appropriation is made for the evaluation
31 provided for in paragraph (1).

32 SEC. 3. Section 3070 is added to the Penal Code, to
33 read:

34 3070. The Department of Corrections shall develop
35 and report, utilizing existing resources, to the Legislature
36 by December 31, 2000, a plan that would ensure by
37 January 1, 2005, that all prisoners and parolees who are
38 substance abusers receive appropriate treatment,
39 including therapeutic community and academic
40 programs. The plan shall include a range of options,

1 estimated capital outlay and operating costs for the
2 various options, and a recommended prioritization,
3 including which persons shall receive priority for
4 treatment, for phased implementation of the plan.

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